

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (New): A method of separating semiconductor elements on a substrate, using a laser producing at least one primary laser beam, comprising:

splitting the at least one primary laser beam into a plurality of secondary laser beams using a first diffraction grating having at least a first grating structure and by impinging the at least one primary laser beam on the first grating structure, and wherein at least one first score is formed by moving the laser relative to the substrate in a first direction;

forming at least one second score by moving the laser relative to the substrate in a second direction, wherein a second grating structure is comprised by the first diffraction grating; and

before the moving the laser relative to the substrate in the second direction, altering the first grating structure to the second grating structure, by moving the first diffraction grating such that the at least one primary laser beam impinges on the second grating structure.

Claim 15 (New): A method according to claim 14, wherein the moving the first grating structure comprises translating the first diffraction grating.

Claim 16 (New): A method according to claim 14, wherein the second grating structure is a mathematical image of the first grating structure by rotating the first grating structure over a rotation angle.

Claim 17 (New): A method according to claim 16, wherein the altering the first grating structure comprises rotating the first diffraction grating for forming the second grating structure.

Claim 18 (New): A method according to claim 17, wherein the rotating the first diffraction grating comprises rotating relative to an axis of rotation transverse to the at least one primary laser beam.

Claim 19 (New): A method according to claim 14, wherein the second direction is transverse to the first direction.

Claim 20 (New): A device for separating semiconductor elements formed on a substrate, comprising:

- a laser configured to produce at least one primary laser beam;
- a first diffraction grating having at least a first grating structure, the first diffraction grating configured to split the at least one primary laser beam into a plurality of secondary laser beams by impinging the at least one primary laser beam onto the first grating structure;
- means for moving the substrate relative to the laser in at least a first direction for forming a first score, the means for moving further for moving the substrate relative to the laser in a second direction for forming a second score, wherein a second grating structure is comprised by the first diffraction grating; and
- means for altering the first grating structure to the second grating structure, by moving the first diffraction grating such that the at least one primary laser beam impinges on the second grating structure.

Claim 21 (New): A device according to claim 20, wherein the means for altering the first grating structure further translates the diffraction grating relative to the at least one primary laser beam.

Claim 22 (New): A device according to claim 20, wherein the second grating structure is a mathematical image of the first grating structure by rotating the first grating structure over an angle of rotation.

Claim 23 (New): A device according to claim 22, wherein the means for moving the first grating structure further rotates the first diffraction grating around an axis of rotation transverse to the at least one primary laser beam.

Claim 24 (New): A diffraction grating for use in a method according to claim 14, the diffraction grating comprising a first part having a first grating structure and a second part having a second grating structure.

Claim 25 (New): A diffraction grating according to claim 24, wherein the second grating structure is a mathematical image of the first grating structure by rotating the first grating structure over an angle of rotation.

Claim 26 (New): A diffraction grating according to claim 25, wherein the rotation angle is a straight angle.